

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORTS ON H.R. 3874, CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998 AND S. 2206, HUMAN SERVICES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House be permitted until midnight tonight to file a conference report accompanying the bill (H.R. 3874) to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to make improvements to the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children and to extend the authority of that program through fiscal year 2003, and to file a conference report accompanying the Senate bill (S. 2206) to amend the Head Start Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and make improvements to those Acts, to establish demonstration projects that provide an opportunity for persons with limited means to accumulate assets, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1998, OR ANY DAY THEREAFTER, CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3694, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order on October 7, 1998, or any day thereafter, to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3694) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived; and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 575, I announce that the following bills will be considered under suspension of the rules on tomorrow:

H.R. 4679, H.R. 3783, H.R. 8, H.R. 4657, H.R. 4656, S. 2505, H.R. 2921, H.R. 4616, H.R. 2348, H. Con. Res. 331, S. 2022, S. 512, S. 1976, H.R. 804, and H.R. 4293.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the titles of the legislation to be considered.

Suspensions for Wednesday, October 7:

1. H.R. 4679—Antimicrobial Regulation Technical Corrections Act of 1998;
2. H.R. 3783—Child Online Protection;
3. H.R. 8—Border Smog Reduction Act;
4. H.R. 4657—Clark County Land Exchange;
5. H.R. 4656—Clark County Land Exchange;
6. S. 2505—To Convey Title to the Tunnison Lab Hagerman Field Station in Gooding County, Idaho;
7. H.R. 2921—Multichannel Video Competition and Consumer Protection Act;
8. H.R. 4616—Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office;
9. H.R. 2348—Designating the Mervyn Dymally Post Office Building;
10. H. Con. Res. 331—Expressing the Sense of Congress Concerning the Inadequacy of Sewage Infrastructure Facilities in Tijuana, Mexico;
11. S. 2022—Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998;
12. S. 512—Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act;
13. S. 1976—Crime Victims With Disabilities Awareness Act;
14. H.R. 804—To Ensure that Federal Funds Made Available to Hire or Rehire Law Enforcement Officers are used in a Manner that Produces a Net Gain of the Number of Law Enforcement Officers who Perform Non-administrative Public Safety Services; and
15. H.R. 4293—To Establish a Cultural and Training Program for Disadvantaged Individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 836

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 836.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4259.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from?

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4101 "An Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes."

PERMITTING OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE TAKEN WHILE THE HOUSE IS IN ACTUAL SESSION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 577) permitting official photographs of the House of Representative to be taken while the House is in actual session, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 577

Resolved, That at a time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, official photographs of the House may be taken while the House is in actual session. Payment for the costs associated with taking, preparing, and distributing such photographs may be made from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SKAGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN INDONESIA MUST STOP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the many people in Indonesia suffering from religious and ethnic hatred and abuse. The recent reports of riots and mass rapes of Chinese women has shocked the world. The extreme nature of these stories and the human rights abuses have made many wonder if the stories can really be true. Unfortunately they are.

Earlier this year riots broke out in major cities of Indonesia. As people

stood and watched in horror rioters looted and destroyed Chinese businesses. Authorities arrested and even killed students, and assailants brutally raped and murdered Chinese women and girls.

Reports suggest that groups of unknown assailants would descend on a community, enter businesses, demand money, rape women who were present, often while uttering anti-Chinese rhetoric and loot and sometimes burn the businesses. Horrifying testimonies of rapes of girls, young women and older women revealed what some believe to be a calculated attempt to humiliate and terrorize the population into becoming followers of the government and military.

The actions of the rapists and looters are cowardly, should be internationally condemned. In addition, although the Indonesia government has acknowledged that the rapes occurred, it must engage in a thorough investigation. They must be held accountable before the world community for the riots and mass rapes and bring to justice those who are responsible for these terrible atrocities.

This summer I cohosted a Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing on human rights abuses in Indonesia. The courageous panel of witnesses put their own lives in danger by sharing their stories and experiences in Indonesia. Father Sandyawan, the leader of the team that testified is now on the run. His offices, his house, have been ransacked, his assistants have been harassed, and his wife has been threatened.

Unfortunately reports reflect that the minority Chinese ethnic and religious population has been the target of most of the riot activity. This reflects a terrible violation of human rights and raises the possibility that there could be an increase in human rights abuses and a limit to basic freedoms for the general Indonesian population as a whole.

It is an understatement to say that the economic and political situation in Indonesia has been highly unstable in these past 8 or 9 months. Indonesians have lost their life savings, they have struggled to get food for their families, they live in fear of losing their lives in the riots which occurred.

Reports suggest that the ethnic Chinese only leave their homes to go to and from work. Otherwise they stay hidden.

Despite the change in the leadership of Indonesia's government on May 21, the rapes and other human rights abuses continue. In the midst of this turmoil and even before the current chaos began another group has suffered and continues to suffer as victims of violence and arson. The Indonesian Christian population has borne tremendous difficulty as government troops have closed churches and places of worship. Further, angry mobs have ransacked and destroyed their churches.

Since independence in 1945, and especially since the inception of the

Suharto regime in 1966, reports reveal that mobs have burned or otherwise destroyed 483 churches, and 228 of those churches were destroyed after January 1996. Attackers destroyed the churches with Molotov bombs, fires and mob action.

I have besides me photographs which show the devastating effects of the attacks on the churches. In addition, there is a photo of a young woman who was burned to death in East Java while in her church. Unfortunately, although the new president of Indonesia promised change, churches continue to fall under attack. Fifteen churches have been destroyed during the four months since President Habibie assumed power.

Let me show you these photographs. The top photograph is of a Catholic church in West Java while it is burning. The bottom photograph is another church in South Kalimantan. The top photograph here is this same Catholic church after it has been burned. The congregation is sitting in the shell continuing to worship, but with no roof top. Here is another Indonesian Christian church that has been burned and ransacked. Here is a Protestant church in South Kalimantan, and here is remains of the lady who was burned in that church.

Indonesia is a member of the United Nations, but it is not party to any of the U.N. agreements which protect basic human rights such as freedom of religion.

Mr. Speaker, the human rights violations in Indonesia must stop, and the world community demands that they investigate and pursue justice.

A news article from June 18 states that "Indonesia's politics is becoming more Islamic."

Although there are numerous moderate Muslims in Indonesia who would protect the right of their Christian brothers and sisters to worship and share their faith freely, there are extremists who appear intent on securing power and ruling according to Shari'a (pronounced Shar-ee-aa) law.

Recent laws have been passed which restrict freedom of speech and conversion to another religion; restrict licensing for building places of worship; restrict Muslims from marrying non-Muslims; and restrict the religious education of private schools. In addition, the government must approve of religions—certain religions are illegal in Indonesia.

There are a few other nations of the world which have extremist governments, who do not respect freedom of belief for Christians, animists, or other non-Muslim religions.

And reports from Christians in Indonesia show their fear of being ruled by extremists.

As the world works to help Indonesia recover economically, it is vital that those solutions also address underlying issues in the culture, such as ethnic and religious prejudices, and the ensuing restrictions on fundamental human rights.

The government of Indonesia should thoroughly investigate the mass rapes of Chinese women as well as the destruction of churches and bring those responsible for these organized terrorist attacks to justice.

The world community of civilized nations demands no less.

SHOULD PRESIDENT CLINTON BE IMPEACHED?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, we have, all of us, heard the salacious and speculative words being thrown around by the press and by partisans posturing both in this House and across the country, but this is too important, far too important. This is a crisis to our constitutional government, it seems to me, and therefore I believe it is important to hear from real experts.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to quote and read from a letter 13 constitutional scholars with no political ax to grind sent to the Speaker of the House. This is signed by 13 professors of law, and I am going to read this letter.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Did President Clinton commit high crimes and misdemeanors for which he may be properly impeached? We, the undersigned professors of law, believe that the misconduct alleged in the independent counsel's report does not cross that threshold. We write neither as Democrats nor as Republicans. Some of us believe the President has acted disgracefully, some that the independent counsel has. This letter has nothing to do with any such judgment. Rather it expresses the one judgment of which we all agree, that the independent counsel's report does not make a case for presidential impeachment. No existing judicial precedent binds congress' determination of the meaning of high crimes and misdemeanors, but it is clear that Members of Congress would violate their constitutional responsibilities if they sought to impeach and remove the President merely for conduct of which they disapproved. The President's independence from Congress is fundamental to the American structure of government. It is essential to the separation of powers. It is essential to the President's ability to discharge such constitutional duties as vetoing legislation he considers contrary to the Nation's interest.

They go on to say some of the charges laid out in the independent counsel's report fall so far short of the high standard that they strain good sense. For example, the charge that the President repeatedly declined to testify voluntarily or press a debatable privilege claim that was later judicially objected. These offenses are not remotely impeachable. With respect, however, to other allegations, the report requires careful consideration of the kind of misconduct that renders a President constitutionally unfit to stay in office.

When a President commits treason, he exercises his executive powers or uses information obtained by virtue of his executive powers deliberately to aid an enemy. When a President is bribed, he exercises or offers to exercise his executive powers in exchange for corrupt gain. Both acts involve the criminal exercise of presidential power, converting those awful powers into an instrument either of enemies' interest or purely personal gain.

We believe that the critical distinctive feature of treason and bribery is